

SPIRITUAL MOTHER

(This part of my journal begins with a visit to Fr. Martin Jones and the emerging Bride of Christ Community. (see www.brideofchristcommunity.org). Fr. Martin saw me as a kind of Imma – Hebrew for Mother – of this community. I realized that in many aspects of my life I am now a spiritual mother, so I am using that title for this part of my journal).

March 31, 2009

I gingerly check out Fr. Martin by saying many communities get into difficulties because of lack of financial transparency. He lumbered out of the dining room and returned with the checking account records showing the \$400 or so in the account that were mostly his input and said, “I can put you on the account if you like.” This was humorous and reassuring, indeed. While at Adoration prayer I felt lots of peace about coming back to try out the community. Also I was wonderfully welcomed to do part time teaching at Holy Apostles Seminary.

I am putting in here the theme song, so to speak, of the Prophetic Word given at Bridal Retreat, 10/16/2004 to Father Marty Jones

My beloved! You are My beloved. Your gaze overwhelms me. I am filled with your love. Remember the days of your youth, the days of My experience with you, the days that you were in love with Me and I wish you.

My love has not changed. Let your love and change be like your first love for Me with all the newness of the flowers and the springtime. I call you back to that springtime in our relationship where everything was new.

Be bold with love of Me. Share that love with those whom I send you. Call them to that love. Prepare them for that bridal experience of Me who am the Bridegroom of the Church, the Bridegroom of each of your souls.

Awaken, arise, cast off the sleep this world engulfs you in but plunge rather deeply into My most Sacred Heart. My Heart is the symbol of My Divine and human love for each one of you, the love that overflows from the heart of the Blessed Trinity itself, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the love which created the universe out of love.

Call others to Me. That is My task for you, My mission for you, for I thirst for their love. I will keep thirsting until the whole world is in love with Me and then I will come back to you when the Spirit and the bride say “Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus.”

There is much that needs to be done in preparation and the time is short so I need you to go out and call those into the depths of My love. My daughter, Margaret Mary Alacoque, was the herald of that love for you, the love that is flowing from My most Sacred Heart from the moment that it was created. From the moment that it was pierced with the lance and blood and water gushed forth from My Heart: torrents of love and mercy that enveloped the whole world.

I see this evil generation that you live in, a generation that is far away from God; a generation that calls itself atheists and has turned far from My commandments, from My law of love.

Know that there are things that will come upon you, things that you cannot imagine in preparation for the new world, the new springtime, the new church that I will bring forth from the death of many, from the death of many. Many will have to suffer. Many will have to undergo trials and tribulations. Know that I am with you always, that I bring you through this time; that you are held within My most Sacred Heart.

I give you the Mother, My Mother as Mother of the Church, as Mother of the bride, for it is in Her Immaculate Heart that I have called you to take refuge. She is like the ark of Noah, the ark of the New Covenant, the ark that I call you into so that I Myself will close the doors of that heart that you will be safe and kept close to her most maternal heart that always beats in love of you.

That's what I heard when my ears were first forming within her womb – the beat of her Immaculate Heart, the heart that still beats in love for each one of you. When you are afraid to go close, go close and draw near to her heart. There were many times throughout my life I laid My head upon her heart and listened to that Immaculate Heart, the most pure heart that was ever created beating in love for Me and now beating in love for you. Go to her, rest with her, listen to her words as she call you back to My words, to obeying Me.

Know that the time is short. The evil one has done much in this world to confuse many, to draw even the elect away from me, to draw many away from even My church. I speak through our Holy Father that I have given to you as a gift for these times. Listen to his voice for I speak to you through him. Follow him as you would in a row of ships, for he is in the back of Peter and he will lead you safely into the eternal shores where there is always rest and peace. For it is my Mother herself who guides him and speaks to him in his heart; who inspires him through her Spouse, the Holy Spirit, who guides and directs him at every moment.

Call forth My Spirit upon you also that you may be able to listen to My voice as the Spirit speaks deeply to you within your heart, for today I have given you my own heart in place of your stony hearts, hearths that cry out "let me do your will O God" for it is your hearts that know the will of My Father.

Each time you pray to My Father you pray that His will be done on earth as it is in heaven. That will is always done in heaven. Now I pray that it be done on earth by you following the will of My heavenly Father.

My will for you is love. Love one another as I have loved you and I will carry you back someday. I will carry you back to those heavenly mansions that I have prepared for you, that are almost ready, that are beckoning for you, so that we will have there a great honeymoon of love, a tryst of love that will know no end, a honeymoon within the depths of My heart overflowing with torrents of joy and peace that you cannot even imagine here below.

Then you will plunge all your petty sorrows into the immense joy of My heart, an abyss, an ocean, an ocean of joy gushing forth, gushing forth from My most Sacred Heart.

O My beloved one, My bride, My beautiful one. If you only knew how much I love you, all the other cares that you have would be melted in the furnace of My love, a furnace that grows hot and flames shoot forth so that I will purify everything in your life as I will purify everything in this world

So, be ready for Me, for Me, the Divine Bridegroom, who comes to claim you, My bride, and I will take you with Me so that you will return to the eternal joy of happiness, a happiness that will know no end.

April 5, 2008

Dear friends,

I will be leaving NC for 6 months to discern being in a community called Servants of Bride of Christ as a consecrated widow. This ecclesial movement is Magisterial, Marian, Charismatic, Pro-Life, helping of the poor, into simplicity of life and has or will have priests, brothers, sisters, lay people single and families - they are building in the Berkshires of Mass. a retreat center and retirement colony. Also they plan to do Jewish folk dance. If it sounds interesting to you write me for more information but first go to

brideofchristcommunity.org I will also be teaching part time at Holy Apostles Seminary. Please pray for me as I discern as I have tried numerous ways of life since becoming a widow and I am hoping here I will be able to use my gifts and benefit greatly from those of Fr. Martin Jones and the other members. They pray together the entire Liturgy of the Hours.

Love and prayers,

April 8 During the night I had a feeling of rapture and anointing. I had a sense of aptness of a new name as Imma = meaning Mother of the Bride of Christ as Fr. Martin calls the woman he envisages working on this by his side. I had a sense of all that Jesus, Mary and Joseph have given me that is being fulfilled in this new venture.

April 8, 2009

Letter to daughter Carla:

We had a saying in our home with Nonna (my mother) when about to talk about something important - "here are my thoughty-thoughts."

Well, I think I can understand how frustrating it must be for you when you are sure I am making a wrong choice to keep talking about the pluses and then later the minuses. I will struggle not to do this.

Just the same I think I should communicate with you about the new venture anything that directly touches on you and the family here.

In religious orders, sisters give all their money to the superior who then doles out anything the sister might need. I told him that this would never work with widows - not that he suggested it, but it came to mind - that we, widows, always put emergencies of the family first and no widow could ever join if she had to give her pension, social security etc. to the priest and then ask for permission to get some

**for air tickets or to give to the family if they were in need. I said
I thought the best way is that the widow control all her money and if
the community needs something the priest can ask if she wants to
donate.**

**Just for the records. You didn't ask about this, but it could be a
subliminal concern ...**

**Bless you, beloved, dear daughter mine, whose love I cherish with
unending gratitude, Mom**

April 10, 2009

Dear Jesus, Mary and Joseph,

I feel so excited about Bride of Christ but so jumpy thinking about the white garment they wear. I guess because I feel old and ugly and white is bridal, I need you to tell me if this is right, this garment, or just a vain adrenalin rush.

Mary: In my apparitions I look bridal without ever looking flashy or vain.

Jesus, Mary, Joseph: We told you to become stronger and then love and do what you will. Here is an example. As Evelyn told you, rebuke the spirit of self-deprecation.

April 12, 2009 Carla was much more loving but sure this won't work. She thinks I am repeating a pattern looking for a man to lean on.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph: You will always be looking for people to lean on. That's not wrong unless you overdo. We will help you wherever you are to be stronger. Now be at peace, one day at a time.

April 18, 2009 Augusta, Georgia talk. It went so well. So many seemed helped. I was more open than ever about my sins. I had the sense that I must speak regardless of what the cost – probably more on the East Coast when I move there.

April 15. 2009

Dear Fr. Martin,

I wonder if you have considered this! Maybe not the outfit that Sister Lucille is wearing, but the one I am making which looks like Franciscan poverty in brown, the previous style I adopted at one point, in white appears like an angel costume, which will engender all kinds of snide remarks about pseudo-angels!

It helps me see why the stiff formal habits worn usually by sisters and monastics evade this difficulty precisely by being so extremely formal.

Vamos a ver! I will try wearing it at the May 16th meeting where, I presume, no one will laugh at me but otherwise

Another problem is that widows are archetypically associated with black, so a consecrated widow wearing white to look bridal poses another problem.

I don't know if being persecuted for looking like a pseudo-angel counts toward canonization? Whaddya think?

Shalom, Ronda

Total surprise, Archbishop Dolan of NYC at his installation. He is outside on the sidewalk cheering the people for coming. New type – tough but full of fun. My head is spinning – in the background Gregorian chant but the Bishop is laughing and cracking jokes in full regalia! And he's yelling to the seminarians and priests and the people, I need you, thanks for coming! So American, openness overcoming all formalism.

April 23, 2009

It seemed like a sort of birthday present from Jesus, Mary and Joseph that Fr. M. has been in hints elevating me gradually from my appellation of over-extended basket case, to Assistant Faith Formation Director, to Imma, to co-founder.

I am very happy to think we can find a place for me to live within walking distance of the rectory instead of the overly luxurious former convent.

April 25, 2009 prayer meeting

During the prayer meeting I got a good image for us:

My New Priest

Jesus tells of widows wearying judges -
how much more their priests!

How is it you are not falling
under the heavy cross
of all my expectations?

Is it because you have broad shoulders
or more that you never carry crosses alone.
Yoked to the Bridegroom of your soul
you walk steadily and persistently
no matter how heavy the weight -

And I am grateful.

Shalom, Ronda

April 28, 2009

My daughter Diana's poem for a widow friend who used to walk on 110th St. and Broadway and wanted her to go back with her to NYC to renew these memories:

There are echoes in the pavement,
there's reluctance in my feet

I am walking hallowed ground -
bits of life that won't repeat.

There are owls in the windows,
(there are owls everywhere)
Dreams and themes that used to matter
become tangles in my hair.

Will I hold your hand in mine?
Will we step back to the past?
Having gone, will we discover
any lessons that can last?

Does it matter, does a bird
who can whistle, nothing more,
find a melody that matters
somewhere in the whistling's core?

There are lessons in the sidewalk,
there are bruises in the street -
the kind you turn your mind against
when your relentless feet

against your will, are marching still
despite the certain night -
bills unpaid; unsure and scared
toward some sacred light...

I can see you in the corners -
I can see you everywhere -
at 110th and Broadway,
in the sun and in the air,

in the rainbows that arrive
when I least expect their grace,

in the shadows on the sidewalk,
in the lines that bless your face.

There are owls in the window,
there's a dance we've yet to do,
a finger's touch that means much more
than what I say to you.

Will you meet me for a nightwalk,
(though our hair is growing thin),
will you own the road that ends,
and see that now, the road begins?

I am dancing down the sidewalk,
whistle-haunted on Broadway,
with the ghost of our tomorrows
whispering our life today.

I have got your hand in my hand,
there is no such thing as time,
there is love, and here! We've got it!
Hold on tight, babe. Let us climb.

Love you, special one...

April 28, 2009

Dear Bride of Christ friends,

As I move toward our little community I am thinking I would like to share with you together, that is Fr. Martin, Evelyn and Bob, the graces pouring into me through your prayers and the abundant nuptial love of Jesus:

My homeless guest who was here for 6 months (2 with her teen daughters) found a public housing place to live. The Pastor of her very strong Pentecostal Church came over and promised her the help

of the Church assistant, (a large tough as nails type) to drive her to the public housing and insist they take her. So now on her income of \$440 a month plus food stamps she gets a 3 bedroom apartment for \$113 including gas and electric!

With this breakthrough I feel a huge weight off my shoulders and I was up a lot in the night in prayer of quiet with little rapture moments. I also simultaneously finished most of my research on What the Saints said about Heaven.

Then the Holy Spirit seemed to tell me to spend this time until the 14th following as closely as possible the prayer schedule of Bride of Christ because even though quality matters as much as quantity, quantity is a sort of soaking. Especially we are planning that the retirement colony will be based on participation in the prayers of Bride of Christ so we should begin to model this as much as possible.

My daughter in LA who I am not leaving so she is less sad told me she is very proud of me that at 72 I can jump into something new and she sees this as a model for her someday when she is older.

I don't see it so much as something new as going back to my Benedictine Oblate roots amid my charismatic roots and, so to speak, hiding in the Church in my old age.

Anyhow, when I talk to any of you 3 on the phone I feel great joy and peace so I am taking that as a big sign.

The seminarians in LA and Texas used to call my Mother Ronda as a sort of joke, but if you like the idea, go ahead.

I am praying for you'all lots, too. Ronda

April 30, 2009

Dear Bride of Christ comrades,

Thoughts after a long conversation with you, Fr. Martin, about scheduling and my arrival, unpacking.

What it comes down to is that if we have the rigid (total Myers-Briggs J) type prayer schedule, then everything else has to be very, very flexible (P) so that will be mylittle cross since I like everything super ordered and planned ahead in detail.

Combined with reading Fr. McCarthy's chapter on worry in the Healing Compendium I see that I need to start right now with this car trip with the cats, etc. to trust that with all the inevitable glitches, frustrations, etc., God will bless the journey and the finding the right place to live eventually and everything.

So now all I have to due to rebuke the demon of petty anxiety and lay it at the foot of Jesus and mutter "Jesus, I trust in you" every few seconds! And/or offer up the feeling of anxiety for Bride of Christ intentions. I long ago figured out that the basic anxiety about something such as 'will people like me in spite of what I'm like even with constant prayer and confession, etc.," is covered over by anxiety about the details of some project.

Alleluia, Ronda

MAY 2, 2009

Sense of it being a healing time for the father wound in Connecticut. With the Benedictine orario I have less time to talk! Alleluia!

May 1, 2009 From Anne, Direction for Our Times Monthly message:
Jesus

How often have I called you ‘My little apostles’? Have I ever called you ‘My big apostles’? Why do you think it is that I call you ‘little’? I will tell you. It is because each apostle, by his desire to serve, becomes little. He becomes little so that God can be glorified. If a person is serving Me, that person desires only My glory. If a person is serving Me, he desires to be seen as a servant of men, not as a master of men. In the case of leaders, this desire for humility must be even more pronounced lest the leader begin to believe that he himself is leading, as opposed to My great hope which is that I, Jesus, am leading through the man. I intend to send leaders during this time. You will know them by their spirit of service. You will know them by their humility. You will know them because they will help you to think of Me and what I need from you. No man is entitled to the glory reserved for God. No man is worthy of this glory. I only speak in this way today so that each man will consider his call to service as a call to holiness. I want each man to give credit to Me for the good that I allow to come through him into the world. Do you understand, little apostles? I am reminding you that all good comes from Me so that you will not be tempted to pride by the great fruits I send through your service and your commitment to Me. It is important that every apostle examine himself for signs and symptoms of pride. I ask this of you in a serious way today. We, together, are ushering in a time of grace, and graces will be apparent, not through your power but through Mine. Little apostles, do not believe that Jesus is scolding you. I am not. I am helping you to examine yourself to prevent difficulties, both for your holiness and for My plan. I will help you in this each day if you ask Me. Ask Me to send an outpouring of the Spirit to you whenever you are afraid that pride is troubling you. I will do this for you because I love you and because pride makes you so terribly sad. Pride is the great devourer of joy. You, My beautiful apostles, are entitled to joy and I send My joy to you today. All is well. We work together to perfect your soul.

May 3, 2009

Farewell letter to Nancy:

FOR NANCY – MAY 6, 2009

You came to me,

desperate but charming!

You prayed with me,

anxious but trusting!

You shared with me,

trembling but believing!

You cried with me,

fearing but hoping!

You sang with me,

quaking but soaring!

Nancy, the woman who made my apartment into a home, even bringing two more delightful guests, whose favorite words will always be

"I love you"

and

"God bless you."

Friends forever, Ronda

May 6, 2009

Joy, joy, joy about the apartment I rented over the phone in Connecticut, so close to the Church. I will be like the old ones in medieval times living around the monastery?

May 10, 2009

Dear Fr. Martin

I am pessimistic at night and full of hope in the AM so I woke up feeling that with all our experiences bad and good we have a good chance to make this work with God's grace. Since grace builds on nature, perhaps we have each of us been sufficiently "tenderized" by strife to be able to get along!

Psychologists claim that unrealistic expectations are one of the largest causes of anger, so I want to just go over a few things here for my sake and yours:

- My number one expectation is that even if the diocese moves you to another parish, we can have a community living around it praying together - this to me would be the innermost purpose of what we hope for but cannot be sure of which would be the expanded community around the retreat center and farm probably for Spring and Summer and Fall, but for winter we would be in Connecticut.
- Felix and Conchita, my cats - I gather from what you said that you think what could work out best is that they are based in my apartment but have free access to your upstairs, and my office, and the basement for their "work detail." In this case I will set up the cat door with the help of whoever can do it, in my apartment window. Let me know if you want the cat door instead at your rectory so that I pack it to be taken out from the van in the first load at the rectory. (This didn't work out because a main parish volunteer was super-allergic to cats, so they stayed at my apartment)
- Assistant Faith Formation Director - I will be delighted to do adult ed things of any kind plus lector, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion in Church or in the hospital (but I'd need a ride), etc. Some of the things the Parish Coordinator did I could probably do, but probably not many of them. I could pray for a gift of diplomacy but I get rattled a lot by fielding questions I don't really know how to answer such as intricacies of marriage case preparation of docs., or whether a dying person can get anointing even though married outside the Church, etc. etc.
- I plan, as you generously suggested, to get a ride with you to the Supermarket to get my things each week. I think Associates should be volunteers unless in paid positions, and not feel pressured to do anything. There are always discretion or if asked gently, but I wouldn't want them to feel they have to do such things on even an unspoken basis of "if you were holy you would do this," So I asked Evelyn to let me pay her to take me for the big shopping on Sunday after the early Mass.

- I realize that I am not strictly under obedience at this stage of discernment but I want to be as obedient as possible to whatever you think - pending our weekly prayer and trouble shoot meetings. So if anything in the above is contrary to your discernment let me know and I will try to adjust.

I am full of joy about our future. Shalom, Ronda

Dear Fr. Martin,

Because of your lines in the big locution for Bride of Christ about following the Holy Father like ships following a barque, I am watching and listening more carefully to his words. I love his mild sweetness combined with such firmness. Surely one who speaks the truth with love, one of my many goals for myself. It happens his face and personality are very like my godfather Balduin Schwarz a disciple of Von Hildebrand.

I am praying mid-afternoon prayer and there is this wonderful verse for me:

**Psalm 45 "Listen, O daughter, give ear to my words;
forget your own people and your father's house.
So will the king desire your beauty:
he is your lord, pay homage to him."**

What a word for my Last Flight to the New Jerusalem! (name of the novel we plan to write pre-figuring the monastery-retirement center we want to build.)

Shalom, Ronda, Servant of the Bride of Christ

Dear Abba Martin,

At the large Guatamalan charismatic prayer meeting I gave a tiny farewell speech. As it was Mother's Day tomorrow there was a preaching on mothers and they had all the mothers come up to be thanked and prayed over. In this group I got to be among the tallest!

Anyhow I started relating what was said about mothers to the potential role of Imma. When the leader prayed over me for my new venture I got a sense that perhaps you may not have been able to totally fulfill the role of Abba as you have received visions of it, because the right Imma didn't come before now. I felt a kind of anointing for this helper role.

Then we sang charismatic hymns to Mary as Mother. I asked her to be my special patron for discerning Servants of the Bride of Christ.

Vamos a ver. Shalom, Imma Ronda

May 11, 2009

I plan to have a little time with Fr. Ken the last day I am here to try to see whether I have misunderstood anything he said or thinks about me so that the friendship with this priest, one of my favorite people in the world, could continue unmarred by my taking some of his words of the past wrongly.

As I was pondering this future talk I got an angle that would help, at least help me understand:

In God all the attributes are united rather than separable, but most of us have a greater love of one than another and this is how I would see this between Fr. Ken and myself:

I put first Truth/Justice, then Beauty, then Love, then Freedom (in the sense of freedom of spirit), then Mercy.

He might put first Beauty, then Freedom (in the sense of non-coercion), then Love, then Truth/Justice, then Mercy

So we can meet very well in Beauty – musical, artistic, dance. And when it comes to love in the sense of compassion we will be at one. I can love his free-spiritedness.

Since Jesus, the Mass, and the Church are my highest values I can love and admire and be grateful for his incredible commitment to showing the Real Presence of Jesus in the Mass with the highest Beauty he can make happen with his many gifts. I can love him for his delight love of my family and of me, in certain respects. I can love him for his deep compassion for those truly weak and in need including me when I display that side of myself.

I think where the painful conflict comes is where I think Catholic truth conflicts with his idea of freedom as non-coercion. I have come to see that when Fr. Ken says that I am narrow-minded , which most of my family agreed was correct, he doesn't mean that I don't embrace a broad all inclusive view of Church teachings from the Real Presence to Social Justice, but rather that I am so crusading in my desire to see everyone embrace the Truth that I am merciless and insensitive in trying to understand why someone is choosing

dissent, sin or disobedience. Hurling denunciations from the throne of truth, as Von Hildebrand explains self-righteous anger, I limit my effectiveness and create defensiveness.

I will make a general confession of this huge fault that last day I see him.

By the time each of us leaves this world, perhaps we will meet not so much in the realm of beauty, or truth or love, but of mercy.

Well, as I look over this statement it sounds a tad grandiose. Would it be so hard for me to say something simpler such as I love you and I hope you love me and I am sorry for any sins of mine that have separated us? And, of course, given the nature of this epistle, I have to make sure not to allude in the slightest way to any of his faults! Ahem, Amen.

IN CONNECTICUT:

May 20, 2009

Trip to beautiful beach at Old Lyme. Our little group, Fr. Martin, Bob and Evelyn and myself felt so much of one mind and heart as we planned the prayer meeting. I thought, Fr. Martin wanted followers but God sent him leaders!

Surprisingly Fr. Martin showed the poetic-mystical side of himself by taking each of us down a path where there was a cleft in the rock where you could sit and see the ocean and then recited the Song of Songs passage!

May 24, 2009

Dear Nancy and Tiffany and Dona,

I miss you so much! I hope all is well with you in your new place.

Praise the Lord I am finally settling in. I had all these misery glitches.

It started with Conchita refusing to get into the cat carrier with Felix for the trip. She hissed and fussed and reared her dear little body. Happily Bonny came by to say a last goodbye and she insisted we buy another cat carrier.

Since we couldn't get all the stuff in with the second cat carrier I had to leave some with my daughter.

Then we ran into fog and storms and got to the motel that takes pets for \$25 each only at 4 AM in the morning. Nicholas insisted on rising at 7 AM. We got to Connecticut at 2 PM. The apartment is in a house built in 1890! It is all old wooden things which I loved. The landlord is a quirky in and out Catholic whose girlfriend appears to live with him. Felix disappeared after a few days and I was sure he was dead since the landlord said he saw a dead grey cat on the highway. I mourned and prayed and he returned after 4 days of prowling about the neighborhood! Then the landlord refused to keep the cat door in the window saying burglars could push that in with a hammer in 2 minutes and get into his apartment also. So now they are mostly outside cats and come in at night primarily.

Lots of graces with the team here who are all into daily Mass and prayers and charismatic type praying. This is all going well.

Please write back. Love and prayers, Mother Ronda

May 29, 2009

I thought, Fr. M. is a kind of redeemed Bronx Science kiD! More seriously I had a sense of what an honor it is to be chosen to be a companion to a priest.

Fr. Martin said about childhood victims that they are like Jesus, suffering while innocent. That makes them especially precious and in healing they need to be able to say the words of Christ on the Cross.

May 30, 2009

Watching incredible drama about St. Paul Jesus told me: "Ronda, I am showing you these new friends here so that you can help carry their burden. Don't you see that I have made you to do this! Do not fear. Yes, it brings out your worst and they are made to carry your burden.

May 31, 2009 Wonderful first Healing Celebration Sunday night prayer group. Fr. wanted to combine first Adoration, then praise and worship, then a talk, then praying over on kneelers like brides with icons and the prayer ministers standing behind them while they faced Jesus in the monstrance. He came with the monstrance to each of us and blessed us. I felt so maternal and soft praying over some women. Then Bob and Evelyn prayed over me and Bob said as from my father “I have been forgiven. Can you forgive me for hurting you?” It felt releasing. I had a sense of Bob and Evelyn being healing parents to me.

June 1, 2009 from Anne, Direction for Our Times

Jesus

Dear apostles, I ask that you remind yourselves each day that I am participating through you in the course of history. What comes from Me can only be good. When you see goodness and kindness, you must thank Me. When you see mercy and compassion, you must thank Me. These occurrences originate in heaven and are brought to earth through the participation of those who cooperate with grace. Always, there are those who claim to participate in grace, but who do not. There are also those who claim to reject Me and yet they participate in grace by allowing goodness to flow through them. How confusing this can be for My children. Dear children, ultimately, this will be clear, in that each man must answer yes or no in each moment. Be alert to the choices in your day. Be alert to the example you set for others in your decisions for good or evil. Be alert to the peace that I bring to you when you decide for what is good. My apostles, you crave Me, I know. You crave My return into your world through a wide acceptance of the Spirit of peace. How can you satisfy this craving? I will tell you. In order to relieve the pangs of your hunger for goodness, you must bring goodness to others. Speak of goodness. Celebrate goodness. Rejoice in goodness and then try your best to participate in goodness through your cooperation with My renewal. In this way you will know that you are never helpless against evil. You will understand that I have healing power, yes, and I can flow My healing power through each person who

accepts their responsibility for bringing Me to others. I am so pleased with My beloved apostles because you have accepted your tasks. How gratefully I listen when you pledge your allegiance each day. How I count on you. Spend a moment considering what I have managed to do through your cooperation. Have you shown kindness? Have you tried to become holier? Have you spread my message of compassion? You are only one. Now consider how many I have called into service at this time. Consider all of those I am calling into service through your service. Consider the healing graces that flow through My mercy. My friends, all is well. The renewal continues.

June 2, 2009 Evelyn did a long healing and deliverance prayer over me. Most effective was renouncing the spirit of isolation. Evelyn said I will always have a best friend, her. She is lonely too and worries about Bob dying first.

I have been feeling confirmed that this Bride of Christ is going to work and that I am meant to be here in the role of Imma in spite of all my faults and the difficulties.

I prayed, thank you Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Guardian Angel, God the Father, God the Holy Spirit – I got what I wanted most: to be able to walk to Church, not to have to deal with dissenting Catholics, and to have the same people to see each day and talk to. Alleluia.

June 8, 2009

Dear friends,

Don't be insulted that I am sending this to you on a list! Of all the good things I am experiencing one is not so good - I am as busy as a bee and can't get to each of you separately.

Contrary to all dire predictions I am doing well here. It's a unique situation in many ways - Our small community prays all 7 Liturgy of the Hours aloud in the parish Church. This is part of the founder's vision to mingle a sort of Benedictine spirituality with parish apostolates. I am so used to doing liturgy

of the hours silently by myself that this was quite a strain at first but now I see that it is kind of like a mantra, immersing the soul in truth and beauty throughout the day.

The priest, who is diocesan, loves community so he cooks for me and for anyone who would enjoy his crock pot cooking - which especially includes priests who have no cooks and otherwise just open cans or go to MacDonald's! Those of you who know me will realize that nothing could be more "me" than to eat lovely meals cooked by someone else in exchange for conversation and doing dishes.

I am setting up all my usual workshops, but the icing on the cake is that since Fr. Martin is charismatic he is having me and two other charismatic retired leaders start a healing prayer group which he combines with Adoration by bringing the monstrance right up to the face of the sufferer being prayed for! Also he lets us give 2 minute witnesses after the Mass. I have been wishing priests would do this forever.

I miss the family and my old friends greatly, sniff, sniff, but I am hoping this is my final place.

If you want to take this opportunity to fill me in on your on-going saga I will answer you separately.

Love and prayers, Ronda

June 14, 2009 – a thought: do I need the heavy hand of Fr. M just as I needed Martin's heavy hand in order to feel more secure?

July 27, 2009

Ronda to Jesus, Mary and Joseph: Could it be that I cannot be a full-time member of a community because I can't obey where there are any inconsistencies, not because I am too proud, but because I am a lover of truth as a philosopher? That is how You want me to be? So I could be private association, but not a widow servant?

August 1, 2009 from Anne of Direction for Our Times

Jesus

Dearest apostles, I thank you for your efforts for Me. Do you see the fruit of your labours? Perhaps not. Perhaps you continue serving, living out your commitments with no understanding of how I bless the world through your service. I hear your sighs. I am with you in your uncertainty. In humanity, there is always uncertainty. In humanity, there is always doubt. There also comes fear and each human will experience heaviness in his heart some day. None of these things should persuade you that you are serving in vain. None of these things should distract you from a zealous representation of the gospel message. You see, the message is so much bigger than each of you. And yet, each of you is necessary. The gospel truth pushes itself into a world that craves truth, even while it rejects truth. You, beloved apostle, are part of that push. You will feel the strain in your body and soul. You will feel the sacrifice. If you did not feel any such strain or sacrifice, there would be cause for concern because living and spreading the gospel is work. When you feel tired, remember that I also felt tired. Never separate your sufferings from My sufferings and you will be at peace, even as you carry your share of the cross for this time. I am with you, loving and sustaining you. I am ever watchful. When you need Me in a special way, you shall have Me, with every grace required. Do not be afraid of anything. Your Jesus will never abandon you.

August 10, 2009

A cute event. I was shivering with cold at morning prayer this morning in spite of the fleece cape as the AC hits my face. So later this morning Fr. M. brings me a tight fitting ski hat - one of those that fits like a sleeve with a hole in it which is to cover a thin white Arab headscarf to cover my whole face but still be able to see.

I paraded over to the Church to the hilarity of the secretaries, looking like a more than shrouded Muslim traditional woman. I couldn't see the words through the "veil" and the black ski sleeve hat was like a vice, so he then went to why not place the scarf like a tent over my whole head and read the book in my lap looking like old veiled medieval nuns!

Happily even though the AC was full blast this afternoon at 3 because it was so hot outside it was not cold in the Church.

Meanwhile he reiterated how much priests need community around them

and said that even though I drive him crazy with things like the coldness, and I suppose tho he didn't say the bathroom issues (he doesn't like to stop for the bathroom on trips, he thinks I am great on the essentials of the community. Sigh, life, alas, etc.

August 12, 2009

Dear Ros,

I have been praying and thinking and praying and I got a breakthrough today:

In our present Community we have these levels:

Ecclesial Movement - likes nuptial spirituality but no commitments

Private Association - agrees to pray each day morning and evening

prayer, daily Mass, Mercy, Rosary, etc. but not necessarily in common

- from wherever they live

Servants - promises for widows and married couples and vows for others with poverty, chastity and obedience.

This is what I got, I think of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph - what about a middle category of a sort of Helper-Friend:

Those who live right near the parish, pray 7 times a day with the priest, eat with the priest, help him at the parish but without any promises or vows. (We could have a private promise not to re-marry)

This was we would not have all these neuralgic issues over obeying someone who himself isn't under daily obedience to anyone and who has traits that bother us and having at 72 to obey moment by moment someone with even slightly different values.

Let me know what you think. Father Martin is open to the idea.

Shalom, Ronda

August 13, 2009

Fr. Martin didn't accept this idea of this kind of membership. He thinks we should have Private Assoc. or Servant and not this hybrid which doesn't involve commitment. I felt desolate about it, and prayed a lot to Mary for help. What I got was a sense that I need to wait and see because there will be something surprising which will alter my perceptions.

August 26, 2009

Working on Pere Thomas manuscript. He writes about how receiving God's love in wordless prayer is deeper than anything else. I hear Jesus, Mary and Joseph telling me:

"Yes, Ronda, you became so obsessed with locutions. We needed to stop and bring you by an indirect route of grounding in Bride of Christ in aloud praying of Liturgy of the Hours, and back to contemplative reception of our presence. You can use Thursdays for this silent prayer. See how we brought Fr. Patrick back into your life. "Be Still and know that I am God."

We are trying by giving you The Rock, Fr. Martin, to give you enough security so you can come back to us in deep prayer of quiet.

I am pondering Alice Von Hildebrand's remark after reading my autobiography that I should not let hatred for my sins blind me to God's love for me.

August 26, 2009

Letter to send to my daughter's father in law at the death of his wife who died of Alzheimers:

Oh small trim Lucy. I remember that when I first met you I was afraid that you would be some glitz rich lady who would look down on us! How funny to remember that fear.

Certainly I never expected a sharp-minded always helpful, pensive woman who could fix up a messy little corner in her adult son's room with so humorous a remark as "the nest sometimes gets a little messy, I guess!"

I see you smiling your joy holding each new baby in your arms.

Most of all I think of a visit I made to your house on the sea - for some reason Pat wasn't there that weekend. I was giving a talk in Worcester and you insisted that you pick me up at the airport and

bring me to the family dwelling and even took me to Mass that Saturday morning. What a beautiful house and how wonderful to picture your son in his youth sailing out at sea framed by that rocky landscape.

In "a twinkling of an eye" as St. Paul says, you have been wafted out of that body which so betrayed you, into the unfathomable sea of eternity. Are you with dear Peter, with all barriers collapsed in grace? I pray so.

And you, dear loyal long-suffering Patrick, my prayers are for you, too. Ronda

August 29, 2009

Letter to a friend,

I idea: instead of thinking of our monastery/retirement colony as a beautiful place for spiritual growth, why not make it more like a Wounded Healer 1/2 way house idea - the Bride of Christ Community with the idea of total acceptance that we are not saints ministering to broken sinners but ourselves broken sinners in great need of each other's prayers and ministries.

First class at Holy Apostles Seminary near the parish of Fr. Martin.

What an amazing class. Wonderful seminarians, wonderful, sweet Vietnamese, wonderful lay students with a virginal feeling to them vs. burnt out from parties and booze. The standout was Br. Youssef from Lebanon, I think you know him, Franciscan Friar, who sat near me with eyes brimming over with grace and love.

I thought I was in heaven. They seemed to accept my rollicking funny teaching style after a short period of looking at me as if "this woman can't be for real." But I kept reminding myself, they are mostly concerned with the requirements, what they have to do, not with my personality style.

I am walking on air, praising the Lord. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, are smiling and saying, "didn't we tell you we'd take care of you."

September 1, 2009 from Anne, Direction for Our Times

Jesus

Dear apostles, I remind you to ask heaven for the graces you require. In order to work in My plan, united to My will, you must be in the habit of asking for all that you need. This constant petitioning for help in your service creates in you an awareness of the unity within which you serve. In this way, you will begin to understand that nothing can be attributed to you except your willingness to serve. You will receive the graces you require, of course, and with these graces will come humility because you will acquire an understanding of the relationship between your requests and heaven's answers. If heaven is supplying you with all that you need to complete the tasks heaven has assigned to you, then you cannot take credit for what is being accomplished. You may say that you are already doing this. I respond that I want you to increase both your dependence on heaven and your awareness of your dependence on heaven. Each day, every day, ask heaven for help throughout the day. My beloved apostles, I am preparing you for a new time which will bring you joy because you will serve peacefully in complete trust. Why would a child fret when his Father sees to his every need? Truly, you are united to heaven. I seek only to instil in you a greater awareness of your unity. I, your Jesus, call on you for dedication and sacrifice, it is true, but not without cause and not without benefit. See to My interests in your day, please. In turn, I will protect your intentions. Spread joy and goodness. Spread unity and peace. Spread trust in God who will never abandon His children.

September 3, Joy of being at the seminary. Decision to teach there in the Spring.

From Pere Thomas:

“Man and Woman”

Let us take a different perspective. God created humans as man and woman. Adam was created first, Eve afterward. The prerogative of woman is not to be first but to be the last, while knowing that the last one is the most perfect. Perfection is not at the beginning but at the fulfillment. And the misfortune of woman is that she always wants to be first, instead of accepting to be last and to let herself be filled by God. This was the sin of Eve, who wanted to take the place of Adam.

And it is always the same, now more than ever.¹ I believe this is what explains the role of Mary in the ‘end times’² and the particularly new difficulties of these ‘end times’.”

September 9, 2009

September 11, 2009

Letter to a friend, My day began with realizing early in the morning that what I like about Fr. M. is precisely that he is a fiery visionary prophet underneath the large heavy girth, and that even though the seminary suits me so much better because I can hide in the intellect with the others who like to hide in the intellect such as Fr. Brian Mullady or Don de Marco, I prefer Fr. M. because he is all vision. I had dinner last night with a seminarian I knew from Texas years ago, and I remembered how at seminaries I tend to fall in love with the composite seminarian and what the seminarian represents as these sacrificial lambs in love with Christ, and when I am with only one of them they are not so wonderful in their individuality. So I like the composite seminarian much more than Fr. M., but one by one I prefer him with all his rough reality.

And I was able to actually convey all this to Fr. M. casually because I think he thinks I would have chosen the seminary instead of Bride of Christ if I had known I could go there first. I surely would have, but that doesn't mean it would have been the right choice. Both/and is probably better.

¹ This recalls the existence and influence of radical feminism today. (Ed.)

² The expression ‘end times’ is here used not to predict when the world will end but to characterize as the ‘end times’ the latest times in which the Church lives, that for Christians will always bear some symbolical comparisons to the Book of Revelation. It is a symbolical rather than a literal interpretation of the term.

September 13, 2009

Notes on a book by Angelyn Arden, a professor here, called
the Articulate Silence:

"Fearful, even terrified of the Hole, we attach to how we know each of our parents/caregivers defend from it:

My mother by 24/7 analytic conversation; my father by work.

"Our attraction has to do with what we think brings flavor, mystery, charge, miarcle, and distinction into our life ...their pull is through coercion, intrigue, secrets, promise of security. ... fear of bland, insipid, common ... nothingness....whereas if one goes through the insipid and weak to the vulnerability one can sit in front of the cross and let Christ enter....:"

I have been acting out all of the above at a frantic pace since arriving here.

September 22, 2009

Decision not to be a widow servant (i.e. a full time member of the community but instead to just pray and help. I asked Jesus, Mary and Joseph: why did I have to go through this:

JMJ: You had to find out yourself that it is not because some priests are dissenters that you cannot find a niche but because We have made you to be a prophetic voice and that the philosopher part of you makes it impossible for you to settle into compromises of any sort.

We want you to speak the truth with love, but that means speaking it, not just living as a victim soul of others' shortcomings. That is what Fr. Luke Zimmer meant when he said you couldn't be in community because of something in your personality that was contrary intrinsically.

So now take all that Fr. M. can give you but be detached and follow up Our word to you: moment by moment with us.

September 18, 2009

A woman I wanted very much to get close to rejected me. Praying today Mary seemed to tell me that she is my Mother and my Sister and to pray to her incessantly. I had a good talk about the basics of it with Fr. Martin who thought that my being so communicative and self-revelatory is a virtue, but can be overwhelming, especially to those who like to be hidden. This sounded right. He thought I should hang in.

September 26, 2009 Answer to an e-letter from someone who watched me on Grodi.

Dear Winnie,

Okay, let me try. Since I am not a theologian or Scripture scholar some of this will just be "my take" and others I will refer you to sources:

Why did Christ have to die to save us? Why was a blood sacrifice required?

It helps me to think that life is more like a story than a syllogism! Did you ever read the Chronicles of Narnia of C. S. Lewis? Well, the sacrifice of Aslan the lion seems somehow "right" even though we would never have invented such a scenario ourselves. Of course it seems right because we have Christian imaginations. He could have saved us some other way. The question is why did he choose to save us this way?

If you read St. Augustine's City of God he has a lot about the evolution of religion without using the word evolution of course.

Primitive man seemed to have a huge archetype of sacrifice of beasts and even humans.

I remember when I was in the process of conversion asking the same question you are asking about why the sacrifice. Somewhere I read that in old Yiddish tradition, women twirled dead chickens around their heads chanting, "let the chicken die instead of me." Out of some archetypal memory this image from my Jewish background, even though atheist, helped me understand Jesus.

So the evolution was from primitive animal sacrifice, to the prophets insisting that God didn't want these sacrifices but instead wanted the sacrifice of the heart to Jesus being the unbloody sacrifice. He obviously has a sovereign right to be the author and the main actor in the drama of salvation, no?

What I can see clearly is if one of my kids did a big no no, and his elder sister begged me not to punish him but that she instead would take the punishment I could hardly fail to forgive the original culprit.

The Catechism is a good reference for all questions such as this. It is beautifully written in a very spiritual way - I mean the big Vatican Catechism published in the 80's.

I will send this and then answer the next one.

- Show quoted text –

Okay, next question: What is the nature of our sacrifice at Mass each week? The Priest says sacrifice be acceptable to God. Why is a sacrifice required and I have never been sure what sacrifice he is referring to?

A little explanation of time and eternity in relationship to the Mass. Most of the peoples of the world have cyclical time - i.e. they think time goes around in a circle, and it doesn't have a start and an end. Only monotheism of a creationist type has God starting time and ending historical time. Picture a line from Creation to the end of time. Now picture a dot above this line called eternity. Eternity means either endless time or timelessness. God is timeless, i.e. outside of time. Eternity enters time at certain key moments such as Creation, the Ten Commandments, the Annunciation, etc. This is called sacred time. In religious rituals we enter the sacred time. When the priest consecrates he actually enters into the sacred time of the Last Supper and the Crucifixion. We live in that time in a virtual sort of way. Through the priest Christ gives us His body and blood in Holy Communion. Since Christ died for our sins, we participate in His sacrifice at the Mass.

As G. K. Chesterton shows in a wonderful philosophical book you should get called (I am checking the reference and sending this to you now before the cat erases the e-mail).

G.K. Chesterton, The Everlasting Man, Chesterton develops the argument that pagan religions and fairy tales are pre-figurations of the Truth. John Paul II in I think Threshold of Hope describes God as sending beams of light. The big beam comes through Judaism to the Catholic Church, but other religions are seeing light from lesser beams.

Placement of holy days? Church History is not my forte. How do I see it? Just as early Church Fathers baptized Greek philosophy - as in taking Plato's sense of the immortality of the soul and showing how Catholic belief in the Resurrected Body completes Plato's dualism, etc. - so the Church baptized holidays in pagan cultures and making them into Catholic feasts. So winter solstice becomes Christmas day. Maybe Christ was actually born on the shortest day of winter...you'd have to look that up on some Catholic Answers web.

Debating the days between Easter and Western Churches - I interpret that to come from political feuds being projected onto Church policies. For example since Constantinople hated Rome for other reasons they would also feud about holiday dates. Like a couple who is on the rocks putting the debate into which restaurant should we go to on our anniversary - the one you like or the one I like.

How do you know it is God's presence you feel and not your imagination? The standard criteria is the fruits - if you feel peaceful and loving that is a good sign, presuming what you are doing or deciding on isn't contrary to Catholic faith or morals. Since I am a nervous wreck, I can't fake peacefulness under any circumstances and always attribute it to divine grace.

Women's roles? Did you read my leaflet on Women as Second Class citizens in the Church? It is on www.rondachervin.com click on books and then e-books and leaflets. Read that first and then ask more. Also read John Paul II's On the Dignity and Vocation of Women. As to leaders of house Churches try Martimort on Deaconesses.

Slavery in the Bible. I read a few books on this for teaching ethics. The gist: there are many things in Old and New Testament that were tolerated not approved in the sense of saying they are intrinsically good. If you google something like slavery and Catholic Church teaching you can get lots of stuff on things like Popes denouncing slavery and not being followed by Catholic slave holders. I see it as analogous to how the Church teaches social justice but most parishioners tolerate many unjust aspects of our society. The Church teaches that you should live simply and austerity to give to the poor, but how often is that preached! A middle class lifestyle with stuffed closets and enough garbage to feed the whole world is tolerated not approved. It would be better, I think, if every priest raged against injustice at least once a month, but they fear losing all their flock. Or they themselves tolerate relatively luxurious living.

In NT times slavery was a substitute for just killing prisoners of war. St. Paul hopes that the slave owner will liberate the slave but legally he couldn't change that.

Basically Jesus came to give us spiritual salvation, not liberation from earthly injustice. That doesn't mean he approved of injustice.

Here I am between things eager to respond to your questions. "At the end of the day the Priests, Bishops, etc. hold the power and ability to make decisions for the Church and we can't even be in the club."

It can seem that way, but if you study Church history from a Catholic feminist point of view you discover other balancing elements - such as saintly women mystics telling the Popes what to do or guiding male members of religious orders. Also Mary trumps all. There she is teaching the whole world at apparitions. As a strong woman, brought up to be an aggressive woman, of course, I love to order people around, but that is not what the real scenario is about to begin with. There is God Himself, Jesus, accepting to be judged by Pharisees and Pilate.

Isn't God genderless? God is pure Spirit, but God reveals Himself in the Father role as progenitor, initiator. If you read JPII Dignity and Vocation of Women he says that since Jesus is God and He calls God Father that has to be normative for us.

Mary Magdalene announces the Resurrection and in that way is an apostle, but Jesus chose men to be apostles even though His mother was holier. A seminarian I was teaching this subject to opined that if God did it this way it was because more would be saved - I think women have an easier time following male leaders than men have following women leaders.

Offering up sufferings. This is based on the famous passage of St. Paul that we are filling in what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ. That doesn't mean that Christ's redemption wasn't good enough, but that He willed that we could become close to Him and help others by offering our sufferings to God in prayer. So all day long I mutter "I'm offering the pain of having to wait on line, etc. etc. for the conversion of my adult children, etc. etc." Heaven is going to be a communal banquet, not the soul alone with God. This praying for one another in this way bonds us as a foretaste of heaven.

God is everywhere in terms of everything partaking of His being in some way in order to exist. A more specific and special way of God being present is Jesus telling us that He will be with us in the Eucharist. If God is present everywhere why would He reveal Himself in His Son in the first place. I guess because we didn't get it. The idea that God loved us so much as to let His son die for us melts our hard hearts, so He desires to be most present when we take up His invitation. As in a husband is present to his wife over coffee or taking out the garbage but much more thematically present in sexual union. See my free e-book on the Sacraments called Signs of Love. The cat is trying to write to you. I will send this and then continue after the cat drifts off.

Sept. 29 Feast of St. Michael, Fr. Brought holy water from a shrine in Mexico in Tlaxacala (?)

called Milagro where a peasant saw St. Michael many times and was told to dig for a well of healing water. I drank some of it for the healing of shivering. I felt heat go through my body. Then after that I felt the cold but it didn't bother me.

October 1, 2009 Fr. Martin said that stains experienced ecstasy at each Mass. I said I thought not, but his look suggested that he, himself did experience ecstasy at each Mass! I am overwhelmed at that thought.

October 2, 2009 Fr. Martin will be transferred. I will move into the seminary. Because of the move he has to divest of a lot of things. Also he seems to be eating less! Answer to prayers?

October 5, 2009

In Sept. 1937! Sister Faustina started to get heavy pains and Jesus told her this was in reparation for abortion and to save some souls. We were born in 1937!

Because of Fr. Martin's transfer I moved into a little room at the Seminary. Great joy of having a room at the seminary. All in one place so near cafeteria, class, chapel and barter of room and board for classes taught! St. Francis of Assisi thank you, thank you, thank you. More money for the poor with no rent or food bill!

Delayed Anne of Ireland message

October 1, 2009

Jesus

My dear children, I am with you. I watch closely as you struggle for holiness. Often, you are uncertain of your spiritual condition. You strive to serve but feel conflicted by the times in which you are serving. There are some things that all humanity deals with regardless of where in history they are placed. First, there will always be a difference between the world's path and heaven's path. These two paths, while they can run alongside each other for increments, will always separate. Ultimately, each man will have to choose. Every man, to a greater or lesser degree, will have to contend with choosing first good over evil and then he will have to make another choice and that is the choice of choosing My plan for his life over his own plan for his life. After that, the choices become even more studied in that the man must choose My plan in each day, in each task and even in each moment. You may say, dear apostle, that this is a difficult call for a man, to study his actions in each day. You may say, this is asking a lot. You are right. I, Jesus, am asking a lot of you. I ask for your full commitment and I do so without apology. Dearest apostles, if you give me your full commitment, there is no limit to what I can do. Look at your life. You have said yes to me on many days. Examine what I have done with your yes answers. Consider what I am building with the commitments of so many children of God who are willing to be directed by the Saviour, their King. I am

building a structure of love. I am building a structure through which many are returning. Truly, your hearts, open and filled with My love, call out to others. You provide for Me a welcome to those who feel separated. If they can be taken into your heart for even a brief moment and experience Me, with My love, then they will have the courage to both approach Me directly and to accept Me directly. Please, do not count the sacrifices when you consider your service. Do not count the loss of worldly respect. Count only the souls who are comforted and consoled. Count the repentance and healing of so many who have been restored to unity with heaven. Count the humility that I have bestowed on you, dear apostle, since you began to learn about true holiness. I am your King. I can give you anything. I choose to give you peace and holiness. I choose to make of you a resolute servant. Accept My will in your life and you will then be able to accept all of the graces heaven has stored up for you.

October 9, 2009

Jesus: It is not that you're a "dingbat" but remember I told you that you were my pilgrim bride. So this is the 10th place you are going since Martin's death. I send you . Rejoice in all the good done to you and that you did in this 5 months at St. Francis Church. If you were not into Franciscan simplicity I could not do this with you!

October 16, 2009

The seminary got me a lovely big new bed! Felix the cat is back from the snow day. Cup runneth over – delight to meet a canon lawyer light skinned Peruvian professor here and then also a tall majestic black Martin de Porres look alike from Peru.

I am thinking my role besides teaching is to affirm all these noble priests and seminarians, the hope of the Church.

October 30, 2009

Glorious visit of Abbot of Cistercians from North Vietnam –luminous. Sense of Gates of Hell will not prevail and God bringing good out of that awful war since we are helping them now. The Abbot said that the communists are letting up on them because the spies had to go to every Mass and began to see how good the faith was!

November 1st message 2009 from Anne:

Jesus:

My dearest apostle, how pleased I am with your efforts. Shall I tell you all that pleases Me? I am pleased that you accept My words and welcome them into your heart. I am pleased because as you welcome My words into your heart, you welcome My graces into your life. Many come and go in My service. But you do not do this. You remain in My service. It will take eternity for Me to show you My gratitude. When I say service, you no doubt think practically. You think of work, of heaven's work, which includes the tasks that you complete for Me and for others in My name. This is good. I so badly need those who are willing to work for Me. But when I say service, I want you to also think of love. Your see, we need bridges built that will transport God's children safely into My heart. But the invitation to cross the bridge from isolation to the love of God will be extended through your love, through My presence in your heart. My love will flow out from you to others and they will find out that the wounds they suffer are vulnerable to love. Wounds melt away when they are exposed to love. Love, rooted in Me, is always selfless. It is quiet rather than boisterous. It waits patiently, willing to accept suffering for the greater good of the soul in front of it. The greater good will always be reconciliation with Me but this reconciliation between the Creator and the created is deeply personal and takes place in the privacy of the soul. Dearest children of God, you have been chosen to accept My love and to use that love to draw others back to Me. I am watching closely as you struggle for greater holiness. I am watching closely as you advance. I am with you in your own suffering and I allow loneliness for every serving apostle because it is only through this loneliness that you understand how badly you need Me. Your loneliness then becomes a heavenly port in a storm of activity through which you draw graces down into the world. You see that you suffer. When you return to Me forever, you will see that your suffering, accepted in My name, advanced not only My intentions, but yours. Be at peace, little apostle. I am involved in all that occurs in your life. I am with you. I will not leave you.

November 4, 2009

Could purgatory be having to forgive!

November 7, 2009

Insight on “second childhood” and old age. We are trying to replicate what we loved in our childhood without the negatives. For me, a mother who wanted to talk all day and a sister to play with who wasn’t critical.

We can get some of these ideal situations some of the time but not in a lasting way because we are being weaned from this earth. In the meantime Mary is the mother/sister who will talk to us all day and be challenging rather than scolding. And, Jesus is the Man, God the Father, and Mary the mother/sister who doesn’t violate her inwardness.

God gives us what we need emotionally on the human level to survive, but keeps drawing us toward eternity.

November 11, 2009

In the 60’s there was this sentimental little “children’s book” The Velveteen Rabbit. The theme was how the child loves the old worn out rabbit even more than the pristine new version of the gift as an analogy to loving others in their batteredness, etc.

I had such an experience the other day. I have a dear friend I was annoyed with for various reasons involving things like P vs. J behavior. It happened that he was injured. I hadn’t seen him for awhile. He was trying to get off a couch but his injury made this hard to do so he got red in the face trying to maneuver off the couch and looked like a huge awkward bear. Suddenly I felt great love for him at that moment. Instead of seeing the sometimes smug looking person I think is judging me, I saw this dear struggling person – not just the physical part but the whole struggling person in all his dimensions.

Another version of one of my long term images that instead of seeing people as fallen idols we should see them as funny little creatures.

November 14, anniversary of Nonna’s death – Mommy, did you arrange this from the other side with Charlie?

Amazing letter:

Hi Ronda,

This is Jesse, Charlie’s (my son who committed suicide) old friend from LA. Actually, I’m

writing to you from Colorado Springs where I'm living now. Recently, I went onto your website and was very moved how you are able to turn such challenges in your life into an inspirational, and no doubt, transformational message. I'm sure you've helped many people. I am writing to you now about Charlie and what I've tried to learn from his terrible loss. I look back on the person I was when he left us, and I think how truly young and naive I was about the world when I thought I had all the answers. Charlie's death made me question everything I thought I believed in, but it's taken many years to realize that. Still faithful to the arts, I graduated Juilliard in 1995 and have been teaching and performing in my own series of solo shows ever since. I am now workshopping a theatrical performance that deals much with the nature of my friend's suicide. The show is called "Face the City," and one of its primary purposes is to address this subject with young adults particularly at an age where the lines between adolescence and adulthood are blurred. Rather than go on a length about the show, it's probably easier to give you the description as viewed in our press release:

The story of "Face the City" is set in the High School, College and the early professional lives of four friends (The Painter, The Composer, The Journalist, and The Performer) who begin with a shared dream of artistic invincibility. When one of them decides to take his own life, his pathway to destruction is explored by The Performer who is forced to come to terms with loss, compromise, and finally escape from his own false dreams as he discovers himself walking down a similar road. Integrating Rock, Theater, and Audio Visual Live Action & Animation in an unparalleled theatrical presentation, "Face the City" is an honest, moving, true story about redemption and the recapturing of innocence in a society that so readily tries to define who you are.

Originally premiered last October, "Face the City" has undergone quite a few revisions structurally and narratively. One of the main areas I've been on the fence with for a while, though, is Charlie's suicide. In the show, I never mention his name, but I feel if I truly am to tell this story honestly I need to go into some of the reasons why he made his decision to end his life. Ultimately, I feel this show can help many people. I have been building a relationship for some time with a woman named Jane Benet who works closely with Suicide Prevention in Colorado Springs and whose own son tragically took his own life a number of years ago. She is helping me form an alliance with Suicide Prevention organizations, using "Face the City" as a vehicle to create awareness. This is a show that does not pull its punches by any means. And I feel I have a very unique perspective based on my own experience to share with people.

As I mentioned, however, so much of my own memories of Charlie when it came to his death are really foggy. I feel if I am to tell this story accurately-- and to actually begin a dialogue with people who may be suffering-- I need more help dealing with such a sensitive subject. I am remembering now his journals. I believe if I were to spend some time with them that might open some doors and enhance the heart of this story. I understand this is probably an extremely sensitive issue for you, and want to ask this as respectfully as I can when I ask if you would be willing to part with some of them for a short time. Obviously, I'm considering you may not even have them in your possession, but if you do, would that be a possibility? If that makes you uncomfortable, which I completely understand, would you at least be willing to talk to me a little about it sometime on the phone?

I will await your response, and respect entirely whatever decision you choose. At the very least, it will be wonderful to hear your voice again!

Sincerely,

Jesse Wilson
(719) 216-8390

November 23, 2009

Talk with Fr. Brad, my spiritual director at the seminary. He was all joyful and full of transcendent visions of why our sense of self-identity should rest on God's love vs. opinions of others and low self-esteem caused thereby such as childhood wounds.

When I went to pray I got this sense that Jesus, Mary and Joseph were telling me that I have reached all my goals in terms of wanting to be a creative person and a famous person and a woman of wisdom. Now all that is left is not impressing anyone or caring about what they think but only letting them, JMJ, form me into a saint by one simple path: "Let go, let God." This means just slowly doing what is needed in every situation without tension or ups and downs based on approval or disapproval and basking in their love. That is all. This gave me lots of quiet and peace and joy.

December 1, 2009 from Anne of Direction for Our Times

Jesus

My dear apostle, you must remember that we are not separated. Sometimes, in your weariness, you pray and seek understanding of the situations in your life. When you do this, please remember that I am with you. You are not separated from Me when your thoughts seek to provide you with answers. If you remind yourself that I am not separate from you, you will search for truth more calmly and with more confidence that there is an answer to your many dilemmas. Please do not concern yourself if you are distracted in prayer. Use these times of distraction to talk to Me. Tell me what is distracting you and we will talk about it together. We are together, after all, so I am there. If a certain pattern of sin is troubling you, ask Me how I feel about it. Ask for My observations. You, my beloved apostle, are a studier of Me and how I treated others. Because of your desire to know me, you have a familiarity with My heart that others lack. I will give you the answers you seek, both in terms of your spiritual condition and in terms of the holiest way to conduct yourself in each situation you confront. We are not separate. We are together. Worries of major proportion would only be problematic for you if you were being asked to assure a holy outcome alone or if you were being asked to travel through the period without Me. I promise you that I will be with you and that the outcomes occurring around you will be consistent with My will. I cannot promise you that

in your humanity you will always rejoice in My will, especially when there is pain. But I can promise you that the greatest amount of mercy will be obtained through your commitment to remaining with Me, united in the life that is yours. All is well. I am with you. I will be generous to My beloved apostles in this holy time of Advent. Be acutely aware of My presence. When you look at all around you, look with My eyes. This will give you the understanding that will insure peace for you. All is well. The infant returns through your heart, as the King.

December 4, 2009

Holy Spirit:

For you, "leaving mother and father" means giving up the idea that you will find a twin soul. Cleave to the Trinity and to the Holy Family and love everyone you meet, but don't depend on them. We are making you stronger. You have many good traits others here don't have and you lack many they do have such as prudence, serenity, steadiness, long-suffering. That is why they provide for you a place where you can flourish and grow. Be more silent. Let us guide you, especially in your inner and outer conversations.

January 1, 2010 from Direction for Our Times

Jesus

There are many different ways to communicate love. One of the ways that I communicate love to My apostles is through My constant presence. I am in each moment, in each day, offering you My heavenly companionship. I offer you a constant stream of love which heals and reassures, which steadies and directs. When allowed, I can help an apostle to adjust his viewpoint to My viewpoint, which is very different from the viewpoint of one who has either forgotten about My presence or rejected My companionship. With this viewpoint comes calm purpose. The days flow past, one by one, and My will flows through each one of you who has accepted My presence. You do not see big changes at your hands. Perhaps you wonder if your cooperation is helpful at all. I assure you today that if you were to reject Me tomorrow, My kingdom would suffer. Without you, I would have one less home for My great love on earth. Each time I use you to love another, I feel gratitude. My gratitude is a force for change in the lives of those around you. You are gaining graces that only heaven can understand. Only heaven can see how an action of grace is stored in waiting. This grace surrounds each person you intercede for and at a moment when it is possible, meaning that heaven sees the opening, that grace is utilised to protect and

advance the soul. Dear apostle, serving heaven so steadily, leave all of your difficulties to Me. Abandon yourself to My providence completely. Serve with discipline in this moment and I will care for your loved ones. I am using you for the purpose of love and I want to use you even more fully. When you become discouraged, please sit with Me and I will help you to grasp the limited nature of your vision. Concentrate on My will for your day. Concentrate on remaining in the present, connected to your service in each moment. Avoid being trapped by the past and avoid being drawn into a future on earth which may not include you. You do not know when I will come for you. But I am with you now, as you read these words, and I have work for you today. Look, together with Me, at what I am asking of you and together we will be a successful force for love. I crave love from you. When you trust Me and reject fear, I am delighted. Calm, steady service is what I require from My beloved apostles who seek to serve Me. Be at peace. I am with you.

February 1, 2010

Jesus

My dear apostles, I am directing you. I am giving you guidance. I am prompting you, again and again. Do you hear Me? Are you learning to separate My voice from the voices of the world? Do you hear Me when I urge you to greater and greater abandonment? You are suffering, I know. I am listening to your prayers and I am with you in your pain. Please do not think that you are experiencing suffering simply because you are serving Me. Look at those who do not serve Me or even those who do not know Me. Are their lives free from suffering? I am helping you to reject the temptation to believe that if you were not walking this path with Me you would be freed from suffering. It is not true. It would be true to say that if you were not united to Me, you would be suffering without the benefit of My companionship. Such lonely suffering. Such hopeless pain. Instead, I offer you the widest variety of consolations. I offer you understanding of the relationship between sacrifice and holiness. I offer you soothing graces to assist you in preparing your soul for heaven and bringing others comfort and grace. Dearest apostles, you are surrounded by heaven. You are surrounded by grace which supports you, even when you feel you are unsupported. If you feel you cannot stand, allow yourself to fall back and rest in My arms. I will care for

you and give you all that you need to continue. Your life is changing, it is true. This should not alarm you. You should expect your life to change as I draw you more and more fully into the plan that I have for your time of service to heaven. It is always the way that I bring you forward, never backward. There is always movement and change. If you were to reject service to Me, your life would still change. Change comes in life whether you are serving heaven or not serving heaven. You may wonder why I am telling you these things. I am helping you to resist the temptation to attach your commitment to Me to suffering. If you are suffering, it is because suffering is part of My plan for you. Each life will include suffering. Beloved apostles, you are trying so hard to serve heaven. Please believe that heaven is serving you, too. You are protected and loved. You need only remain on the course I have laid out for you and all will be well.

Bride of Christ Retreat at My Father's House:

Used to the glorious Latin Schola here at Holy Apostles, I was listening with dismay to my own voice and the other retreatants' voices and feeling bad about the contrast. Then I got this great image. Fr. Martin, and all parish priests, are the priests of the "anawim." And just as Jesus is touched by the love in the intention even if the art or music isn't good so should I be. The analogy came to me: suppose my cat Felix were able to arrange a choir of cats to meow greetings to me, would I not be touched?

Suppose I am the Imma not so much of the Bride of Christ community but of many others such as the seminarians and Fr. Paul's summer group?

Jesus seemed to tell me during the retreat to renew the sense of being a pilgrim bride, as in going to the seminary, Canada, LA this summer.

Without humility we can't be open to the Holy Spirit. I thought, for me the block is constant striving for my own agenda.

Feb. 2, 2010

A strange conversation where Paul Chu talked about one mechanism to "succeed" is to get someone smarter than you and manipulate them in their brokenness so that you can get them to be your slave. I thought, as in "If you were a saint you would want to do what I tell you to do."

Dear Father Martin,

I realize that this announcement about summer must have seemed abrupt and kind of surprising, especially that I didn't discuss it with you before. It was offered when I was in LA at Christmas break, and it seemed too good to turn down, especially because I was so anxious about the summer here at the Seminary where it becomes like a ghost town.

Behind it all is, of course, that I am happy when I am teaching and not when I am in a situation which is ambiguous or kind of play it by ear. The prospects for the summer of staying near St. Andrew's but in this ambivalent role since I am not working for St. Andrew's or hanging out at My Father's House with the complications that involves seemed amorphous. Fr. B. and M.A. have made no move to try to get to know me or use my as a speaker. I don't know the Pastor at St. Andrew's and even though I liked what I saw and what you say it is not as if he is a full time community member, nor am I. It was just too vague. Why wouldn't I just trust that God would give me a good situation here in the summer? Well, basically because I am not very trusting. In view of all that the proposal in LA seemed a God-send.

I just thought you might want more of an explanation, though I imagine also that it came as a kind of relief because you won't have to be figuring out how to handle my difficulties during the long summer.

As of now with Fr. Legault coming back I will be teaching electives in the Fall. I am sorry if the way I

handled this was perplexing. I absolutely trust that you want my best week by week and go to trouble to try to still my anxious little soul. See you Saturday morning. Shalom, Ronda

Prayer Group at St. John's Middletown – loved seeing the hearts of all of them. From being so so reverent do some of our seminarians become atrophied of heart to some degree? I got a prophecy about us needing one another so much and we need to admit that. I saw that it was good that I witnessed openness and neediness to some people recently who rejected me for doing so. I felt humilitated but at the prayer meeting I thought they need to see that with more love of God someone is not so afraid to be open and vulnerable.

Beautiful visit from Fr. Thomas, Alexandra, Simon, Yang Ha – touched that they want my books .

They work on becoming empty so Mary can work through them. Live in Jesus vs. plan all the time. I felt terrified at this prospect!

April 1, 2010

Jesus

My dear apostles, I am with you. I am present in every challenge you experience. I see your struggle and I provide everything you need to serve Me in each day. If you have given Me your day, then the day belongs to Me. Your self-will has been offered to heaven and heaven exchanges it for My will. How do you experience this? On most days your experience of serving Me is a mystery to you. How could it be otherwise when you are seeing with eyes that have not yet been exposed to the divine vision? Day after day, you offer your will to Me and day after day, I use your offering to gently push Myself through you to others. Do you feel successful? Or do you feel, at times, that you are unsuccessful? Poor little apostles, I understand your questions and I understand your doubts. I assure you, in My human experience, I did not feel successful at every moment. My experience was often much to the contrary. I often experienced the temptation to believe that I was failing the Father. I sometimes, in moments of human temptation, wondered if, in fact, love was enough. Could love succeed in turning hearts to goodness? Could love succeed in persuading God's children to accept the Father's beautiful plan for humanity? Yes, please believe that I suffered temptation. And now, you suffer temptation. Together, our temptations suffered for the Father, bring soothing graces to others. You, My beautiful apostle, serve despite temptations to abandon Me. Where others leave, you endure. You endure for Me, as I endured for you. From My perspective, all is well, despite your suffering. My plan is perfect and if you are serving Me, listening to My voice, there are no problems. If you are not serving Me and you are not listening to My voice, then there are many problems for you and there will continue to be many problems for you. 'Ah', you say, 'Jesus, I am listening to you and still I have these problems'. We must differentiate small problems from big problems. Small problems are the sufferings you bear for the sake of the divine will. Big problems are the problems you face when you abandon My will and insert your own will. Are you praying? Are you in steady communication with Me? Do you ask Me what I want you to do in situations where you are unsure? Do you spend time in silence, considering heaven and heaven's plan for you in the day? Answer yes to these questions and I

assure you, your problems will be manageable. Do not believe I ignore your sighs or turn away from your fears. I am with you. I will never abandon you. My plan will be realised through your perseverance and through the perseverance of many apostles like you. I am so pleased when you pray for each other because this is how you experience, in advance, My gratitude. You see My gratitude in the graces received by others through your intercession. Rejoice. I am responding to your pain and answering your prayers. Truly, I am with you.

April 9, 2010

I talked to Fr. Brad about talking too much. What I surfaced is that I try to get symbolic victory through detraction. He said that I must train my mind to experience all the pain of the weakness of not being able to change family, dissenters, etc. Go back to the father wound. Offer the pain as an act of love for their sins.

When people reject you for being yourself you should be glad because they would have driven you crazy? Angelyn, Vall? Seems so.

Find a time for quiet prayer where the chapel is empty – pray in order to die to the ego part of my delight in what I am doing. Not the delight but the ego part.

April 22, 2010

from a letter from my sister:

Did I tell you I remembered a snippet of a dream I had about one or two weeks ago, in which I saw mother - and she was beautiful! An elongated, gentle body in some kind of coat, sort of half reclining, and her face young, sensitive, inwardly glowing, at repose. I gasped as I woke up, for I don't think of her that way - I look at just with a few photos around when she was older ..

April 28, 2010

Steve puts Charlie's music on my web. Played for my class. Tim O'Hagen said : I saw a vision of Charlie playing the cello. He lifted up his head and said tell my mother Happy Birthday and I love her. Carla and Martina were praying for a sign.

Huge bursts of energy from Peter Miller agent possibilities.

May 1, 2010

Jesus

My dear apostles, how often you are challenged personally when you attempt to speak the Good News. This brings with it a temptation to connect the authenticity of the Good News to your personal holiness. Alas, you find that you fall short, of course, because you serve within the limitations of your flawed humanity. Does this decrease the force of the Good News you are called to share? Does this diminish the authenticity of the Good News? No. Your flawed humanity is rather testimony to the extent of the Good News. Yes, the scope of the Good News is such that each of My little apostles becomes a true herald, human flaws notwithstanding. You are each uniquely qualified to bring this Good News to a wounded world. You see, dearest apostle, it is through accepting your own pain and offering yourself for healing that you become My greatest example. You, in your willingness to accept healing and in your willingness to grow, show others what I am offering to the world in this time of Renewal. Beautiful humanity, how painful is My desire to heal you, to console you, to bring you to the Father where you will find eternal dignity and confidence. I ache with the desire that you accept My love. There are people who are waiting to experience Me, but it is through your acceptance of Me, with complete abandonment, that I will be brought to them. Do I burden you with My work? Do you find My friendship a heavy cross to carry? Let Me assure you, it is only in this cross that you will find your joy.

Letter to Cathy, Jewish convert best friend:

No need to call me in the midst of all your celebration things - I just wanted your Jewish take on something. But I got it resolved and you can laugh instead!

I don't know if I mentioned it to you but someone hooked me up with this Catholic NYC literary agent. I've never had an agent because there are no Catholic agents. There's not a big enough market for an agent to get 15% on sales. This man is a Catholic who is the agent of all sorts of secular stuff but now wants to do more Catholic things. I was told he could take over my own line and actually make big bucks for him and me. Heady, eh? Having lost half my pension it didn't sound so bad. So I went to NYC to meet him and it turns out even though he is Catholic and brought up Catholic, his father was Jewish.

So here I am in the office of this Jewish totally type A super-sales type, pushy, funny, domineering, with two phones on his ears, writing on the computer and 2 secretaries taking dictation. I could see he never heard of me because he's not an EWTN type Catholic at all - more Sunday and new age type. But he trusts that I am terrific because he just started representing Fr. Frank Pavone, who knows me from EWTN and I think I met Fr. Pavone at talks once.

Typical lines of gab:

Ronda: I never read contracts on my books because since I give all the money to Mother Teresa I don't care.

Peter Miller: Well you can give all you want to Mother Teresa but I'm in this for the money because I can't get out of bed unless I have \$10,000 to pray my daily expenses! (He's recently divorced and has alimony, I suppose a great condo in NYC, plus college payments plus he goes all over the world selling manuscripts to publishers.)

Ronda: I'll pray for you. Maybe you're supposed to become a late vocation priest.

Peter Miller: Only if priests can have sex. Maybe the Church will change on this.

So, I figure Martin arranged this scenario. Remember he was a NYC book salesman before his asthma but I am full of scruples because he wants to mainstream me and I identify myself only with our Catholic ghetto.

So it was a 4 hour trip with train cars and subways into NYC and 4 hours back and on the train I'm thinking Cathy will help me to see if I should run like hell or Praise the Lord.

Well, since you couldn't get back I got hold of my priest and he thinks I should go for it and not feel scrupulous about this man and his motives since what I am writing is truth, and I am just going to follow the priest's advice.

Heh! Heh! Heh! LOL Praise the Lord. "It's not over 'til it's over."

Pray for Diana who is weeping all day over losing Jenny to marriage and the peace corps.

June 24, 2010

Dear Abba Martin,

You must have felt it also. As I was going to sleep I reviewed the Session at St. Andrew's for Pentecost and it seemed to me that once we started it was totally anointed with everything fitting together, not only your prophetic call concepts of what your mission was but my participating in a spiritually motherly and teaching role.

I think what it might be telling us is that my Imma role is teaching in a motherly way by the side of the Abba, rather than being a juridical formal mother of the Bride of Christ.??????

PAX, Imma Ronda

June 7, 2010

Excitement of Fr. Jose and his plans and dreams. It is Mommy's birthday and I am thinking maybe she is joking with me from Purgatory or Heaven in the form of reminding me that JMJ said not to worry about my old age because since I gave all to the Church, the Church will carry me. The joke was that now the Church is sending me a "sugar daddy" in the form of Peter Miller.

June-August at St. Catherine's Reseda. Beautiful combination in Paul of deep reverent Mass and charismatic additions. Beautiful praying over me by him where I felt it was the hands of Jesus.

Diana's grid for making decisions about the future:

Priest Name	
Scheme Location	

Location Points – Total Possible = 10

Good Priest	Points	Total
Mentally Stable? (3 pts)		
Warm/Affirmative (2 pts)		

Good Community	Points	Total
Unconventional congregants (5 pts)		

Teaching Points – Total Possible = 10

Structured	Points	Total
Teaching Structure in Place? (5 points)		
Good Students	Points	Total
Bright Interested Students? (5 pts)		

Extra Points: 3 points each

Needs/Desires	Points
Climate is warm	
Near family	
Near ocean	
Trusted friends nearby	
Computer help available	
Can live simply	

Total Score
Location:

Teaching:
Extra
Total

Fr. Paul says that we cannot give up our addictions but if we give them to Jesus he can crucify them and then we will be free as in Isaiah 66:7 where the woman gives birth easily without labor pains. He gives us Resurrection first so we can bear crucifixion.

July 12, 2010

PUTTING YOUR MOUTH WHERE YOUR MONEY ISN'T!

How to turn left-overs into delicious pseudo-French potage for your family or community.

by Ronda Chervin

On one of those nights when you wake up and tune in K-Hell on the radio of your brain, I starting thinking about how when I have to add lower dentures to my uppers I just could be left with a diet of Ensure! My guardian angel raced to my aid with the memory of once reading that before dentures were popular old folks in Europe lived on those scrumptious potato soups such as I had enjoyed in France.

I called an old friend originally from Belgium and asked her for a recipe for potage. She send me not only the recipe but a vintage 1890 Amish metal grinder. You boil potatoes and grind them up with sauted scallions and, voila, a lovely soft soup.

I soon noticed that scallions are a little pricey and it occurred to me that there was no reason I had to obey my friend's recipe since I am just as much a gourmand as a gourmet. Why not put in with the potatoes any left-overs hanging around, such as scraps of chicken left on the bone, rejected peas and carrots and then add herbs and spices. Each one would have a different flavor and... I won't be throwing away that famous garbage that social justice people say could feed the whole world!

Well, grinding up left-overs in that old-fashioned metal grinder takes a long time. Eventually I realized that if I first cooked the whole mess for a half hour and then blended it, I could make it still finer, without the type of lumps that would repel my diners, by a last go through the grinder.

I jokingly boasted to my guests about my garbage soup. That resulted in lots of soup left-over for me – a whole week's worth! So now I tell them about my French potage: the first course. About 50% of them actually like it. And of those, about 5% become pseudo-French chefs like me.

Putting my mouth where my money isn't enables me to have more left-over cash to donate to favorite causes such as the Missionaries of Charity and pro-life.

Let me know if you try it and like it....chervinronda@gmail.com

Ronda Chervin, Ph.D. is a professor of philosophy at Holy Apostles (Late Vocation) College and Seminary and author of numerous books about Catholic living. She is often seen on EWTN.

July 26, 2010 Had group at St. Catherine's Reseda pray for me for not trying to force God to fix my earthly future. After a day I started feeling more peaceful after many weeks of churning over a variety of possibilities.

August 3, 2010 – Peter Miller dropped me as an agent. I felt rejected but pretty quickly accepted it as probably God's will because maybe we could never get along.

Same day: 12 Catholics who live in this mobile home park came to listen to my talk. They looked so stiff - I thought it would be hard to reach them, but they loved it and this new thing is happening....

**people are throwing money at me because they think I am holy!!!!!!!!!
One saw an aura around my head. Later in the evening class at St.
Catherine's here a young man saw light all around me!!!! And another
person gave me a little check for thanks for my little course...And
this group in the evenings want to do sequels with other books of mine
and me on Skype - they actually used the word "disciples."**

**I am too numb to figure it out but I'll keep you posted. Praying for
Pete for a job, etc.**

**Hilarious! I woke up refreshed with the strong feeling that there
are follower types out there who need to think they are dealing with
"special" people and therefore blind themselves to the faults they see
to feel good.**

August 5, 2010

ADIOS DEAR BETHANY HOUSE SISTERS AND BROTHERS!

How would a writer leave without a written thank you? Any words you don't know, look them up - LOL I will miss you:

Sister Sheila – spiritual mother of Bethany House – indefatigable helper with corporal and spiritual works of mercy;

Fr. Paul – spiritual father of Bethany House – a soaring eagle who yet swoops down and shelters us under the shadow of his wings and urges us upward;

Jessica – joyful, eager, hopeful

Brian – overwhelmingly yearning and sincere

Shelli – the gal with the delicate ways

Enrique – every widow's dream helper

Jane – our renaissance woman of all talents

Jerry – serenity personified

Mayra – of the earthy wonderful smile

Scotty – winner of the award for super-contemplative

Tabitha – lovely in her demeanor and ways – the enigmatic non-cat lady.

Phil – the brainy gentle giant

Carrie – redolent of salt of the earth goodness

Ethan – grace-filled adventurer

Peter – of ebullient energy

Ed – redeemed tech-man

Josh – heart of gold

Mylene – what a charmer!

Pray for your old hag garbage soup-maker summer guest, Ronda

Sign of possibilities for the parish Church as a village:

Richard, former computer tech man laid off, 5 adult kids, divorced, looking into an annulment. He is big into adoration. Living in his car at the parish parking lot doing Mass, Adoration and my classes on Way of Love, because he ran out of unemployment and has no money for car insurance or gas. Now he is going to work for \$1,000 a month at the elementary school in the computer room and live for \$500 in a room in the house of a parishioner. Since he is into fasting a lot, he doesn't need much for food.

August 15, 2010 – graces for Carla Nyland-Brown – planning to try taking Martina and boys to Mass after Alex leaves. We were talking about feeling understood and she said that it is the feeling that you will never be totally understood by those who love you that turns you to God as the only one who understands. We think we need to understand God but really we need more to feel understood by Him.

Dear Matthew,

August 19, 2010 Letter to Matthew Phelps.

I am imagining you are disappointed after all the work you put in trying to make the relationship to Peter work for me.

Praying over it, I think that the personality clash was so great it could never work even if I didn't fail to follow your advice as much as I could have that is, if I was a different person.

Essentially I think the Jewish parts of each of us was the problem. I am Jewish pushy (my theory is that we have the archetype to do everything yesterday because tomorrow the pogrom!) and he is Jewish domineering and greedy. I could have accepted those traits of his if he showed any liking for me or my books. But he didn't.

I can never get along with anyone who doesn't like me, or my work. I assumed that he knew my work or would want to read even the queries...which he speed read and forgot the contents of completely by the time he saw me again.

Anyway I know you tried because you like me and my books, so no hard feelings between us.

August 24, 2010

great peace and joy to be back at the seminary. I think I need the masculine strength of the older and younger men to inspire me and relieve my inner insecurities and stress. Thank you JMJ for this hub of hope.

great beauty of the chapel. The idea that they let us walk in while building it because they trust we would not sue them.

September 1, 2010

Jesus

Be at peace in your day, dear apostles. Perhaps you are learning to move more slowly, and perhaps this has helped you to be more connected to My presence in your service. How blessed you are if this lesson has taken root in your life. Strive to achieve this way of life because you will have the greatest gifts available to you if you move methodically, with Me. Sometimes, people are unaware of the nature of My grace flowing into the day through their cooperation. This is best, dear apostles. Be like little children who throw many leaves from a bridge into a stream and then walk away. The impact of their action flows down the stream without any help from the child and the impact from your daily service flows into the greater stream of the Church without any further action on your part. Truly, your consistent service impacts the entire Church in some way, both in the day you are spending your time and in the future where you may not be spending time. Each of you serves as a result of the service of many people. You were formed and directed in your faith by the sacrifice of those who went before you in service. Be grateful for their sacrifice and then you, also, give willingly and generously for those around you and those who will come after you. Dear friends, I am sending formation through each of you that is very specific for this time. It is for this reason that I implore you to remain fixed on Me and all that I am asking you to do. I want you to be holy. I can bring the greatest amount of mercy into the world if My beloved friends help Me. Be disinterested when the enemy of unity brings you reasons to disagree with those around you. Be interested when your Jesus begs you to overlook

the flaws of others and serve alongside them in harmony. Dear apostles, we have nothing without unity. Our campaign of love will only be successful if we concentrate on love. Love overcomes everything, even the most profound suffering. Because, when one of God's children has nothing and he is bereft, the smallest bit of love is like the greatest feast. I, your Jesus, am now a beggar. I am begging you to love. Allow Me to see to justice because only I am equipped to pass judgement. You must see to loving, despite any wounds you have suffered. I am the greatest victim of injustice so I am the best consoler. Bring your suffering to Me and I will send you away with love, which you will then continue to distribute on My behalf. Be serious about My work, dear apostles. It is important.

August 4, 2010

Dear Ruth and Richard,

A propos Mother Teresa's dark night, here is this stunning image of Von Balthasar about Little Therese's journey:

"The true saints are those whose ardor in their earthly mission is fed solely by the eternal heavenly life that they have tasted but that has been so painfully withdrawn. They do not turn their backs on the world in order to enjoy the rest of heaven in advance. Rather, they live a life of intense longing and move the world by the strength of that heaven that has first been granted to them and then closed to them. They hand crucified between this world and the beyond; exiles from earth but not yet in their heavenly home, their position serves as a kind of pulpit, and their whole life is a sermon. It does not matter whether the [preaching] takes the form of action or of contemplation – this decision is left to God; in both cases, their position is the same, stretched between earth and heaven. And the longer they hand there, the more intimate the presence of heaven within them, for nothing brings a person nearer to God than hanging there." (From Two Sisters in the Spirit: Therese of Lisieux and Elizabeth of the Trinity (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1992)

September 5, 2010

Fr. Dan, M.S.A., said his whole life changed when he realized one simple thing: "there are many ways of doing things." I responded, that would mean we don't have to be so critical and defensive.

Sept. 8, 2010

I had a terrific day. We had the dedication of our new chapel - it's a 2 1/2 hour ceremony. We had hundreds of priest-alumni of our seminary, lots late vocation and lots of Sisters in habits, and hundreds of lay people, many of them donors. We had beautiful organ music and chant. It was a glorious sign of hope for the Church because we had to build it because we have so many vocations of older men!!!!

My Nature of Love and Spirituality of the Emotions classes are going well. Praise the Lord.

Also starting a little Bride of Christ prayer group here on Tuesdays. It feels good to run something here for Bride.

September 9, 2010

Poem for my daughter's grieving empty-nest:

September 9, 2010

Womb-Wail

(for my Diana, with hope that you might think your old mother could understand)

Wail of her Nonna,
wandering
 open wombed –
 babes left in the woods –
until her olden womb –
 sprung twins!

Wail of her mother,
twins, hand in hand,
swift fleeing from the nest;

missing ones she couldn't carry;

the third, she could,
 leaping out so high
 as never to return...

Wail of her own womb,
first broken by an unknown face,
then softly birthing a flower-girl;

a son to give away;

the last, battering his way
 out into the world, defiantly.

Legs wrapped round her giant,
with her Merlot-lubricated womb
from which issues forth laughter and tears
envy of her sister's brood of 5 and

A perced furry fore-taste of

the longed for fruits
of her flower daughter's womb
wrapped in her lap;

Keening on her empty nest,
can she bless the fruit
of the wailingest womb of the whole world?

September 10, 2010

A student came to me who has chronic depression but went off medication because she wanted desperately to be free of it, not just medicated for it. I prayed over her. A week later she decided not to enter religious life and her depression completely lifted! I also asked Jackie and Evelyn to pray for her.

Deo gratias.

September 12, 2010c

from a biography of a holy man half Austrian, half Scottish of the 1900's -the name is Von Hugel - it is from a letter he wrote to his young wife as she was visiting her mother from whom she was somewhat estranged:

"I don't know what could give me more pleasure than to know that you came away from your present visit to England with a changed feeling about your mother, - with more real sympathy with her and her sad, difficult position. A mother's lot is, after all, even at its best, so very pathetic; children growing up, often in opposition to, almost always apart or away from her, and so few of them ever feeling this for her, but thinking her aggravating or defective qualities, a sufficient excuse, almost reason, for their disrespectful, unkind words and actions....above all being nice towards her when she seems to be feeling things more, and clinging to such hearts as she has got any claims on."

September 28, 2010

For the first time in 30 years of misery with computers, I had a glitch and instead of tensing up I thought - "this is a challenge. Let's see how it can be fixed!!!!!!!!!!"

Ten years more and I'll be techy!!!

October 5, 2010

from Baron Von Hugel "Oh, how kind and generous of God when He makes it impossible for us to become very happy unless we become very good."

October 1, 2010

Jesus

My dear apostles, you are proceeding through your time on earth amidst many changes. Exteriorly, there is a great deal of motion and upset, which affects God's children. Some are affected negatively and some are affected positively. Who is affected positively when there is suffering? I ask you this because I want you to view suffering from the perspective of one who trusts in God and trusts in God's plan for all of His children. If you trust God, then suffering is viewed more simply, whether it is your suffering or the suffering of those around you. If you are suffering, then you are called to endure, but not without God and not without God's grace. If someone near you is suffering, then you are called to offer compassion and even assistance if possible. You have the grace to understand your role and to understand your response, whether in your own suffering or in the suffering of those around you. In every experience in life, temptation is possible. If all is going well for you, then you may be tempted to become complacent about your response to the many graces I give you. I would prefer that during times of relative ease, you praise Me and be alert to helping others. If all is not going well, there may be a temptation to believe that your prayers are not heard by God. I would prefer that you use these times to practice trusting Me. Offer your suffering to Me with a heart that shares My experience willingly, not resentfully. Dear apostles, we are together, you and I. The unity we share was always intended by the Father. All is well. Do not be tempted against Me if you are suffering. I will never leave you and I will use your suffering in ways you do not understand yet. You will understand later and you will be so grateful to Me because I

offered you these learning experiences. Rejoice. I am always with you.

October 6, 2010

Feeling anxious about an imprudent statement I made contradicting Fr. Mosey. I apologized on e-mail but was still anxious. I passed him and he laughed and said I take him too seriously and that I am always good with him forever! What a blessing.

October 11, 2011

A thought: before worldwide TV for people to recognize the Pope in a crowd at huge gatherings he had to wear the high headdress, etc. Gradually they are doing less of this – first not carried in on a podium, then simpler garb. Also the huge TV screens so everyone can see from a distance.

I am thinking about how it is good the Mercy spirituality is gaining ground because there are so many reasons why people will find it hard to embrace the Catholic Church now, but judgment on their reasons we must leave to God.

October 11, 2010

We have a Nigerian spirituality prof who is close to Cardinal Arinze, so he arranged for him to come to visit us.

We are, relatively only, a poor seminary, but someone went out and got gold colored curtains for the guest suite to welcome him and he arrived with 4 Nigerian priests from the US. 35 local Nigerian lay people came for a special dinner. The joy to see them in their dashiki (sp.?) dresses and head clothes.

The Nigerian priest taught our Latin choir to sing Ibo songs for the Mass. A North Vietnamese seminarian did the reading. A Puerto Rican seminarian did the responsorial.

with all the racism still in the US it did my heart good to see our mostly anglo group honoring the foremost black priest in the world this way.

I put down a fleece, that if my path crossed his naturally I would ask the Cardinal about Consecrated Widows which his office handled. He explained that anyone can make a private promise with a Bishop but making up a ritual for the whole Church would take time. Any Bishop can just do it without permission of the Vatican in the meantime.

October 14 word to me at Carol prayer group - love is to flow not to fix

October 17, 2010

after alarm about Intercessors and the Bishop of Omaha and fearing similar results with Bride of Christ one day leading to banishment from our farm community, etc. I sent this letter to Fr. Martin and other members:

"I prayed about it. This is what the Lord seemed to tell me.

I should put on a back, back burner all issues concerning the New Jerusalem project and just concentrate on

the private association.

I should pray as the community does; teach; be on the board and be Vice President of the tax exempt corp.

but stop obsessing about living situations of the future."

It is, primarily, obsessing about the future New Jerusalem that presses all the wrong buttons. Better to do one step at a time, as Fr. Martin always does!

Dale wrote back and I responded:

Wonderful....I don't think you should lose your serenity over this....Fr.s not allowing it to move ahead anyway...why should anyone be obsessing about it, but especially you, dearest friend. xo

- Show quoted text -

-----Original Message-----

>From: Ronda Chervin <chervinronda@gmail.com>
>Sent: Oct 17, 2010 9:52 AM
>To: Martin Jones <rev_martinjwjones@yahoo.com>, dalenoble <dalenoble@earthlink.net>, Marti Armstrong <martia2@verizon.net>
>Subject: a different, hopefully better, way of seeing my involvement
>
>I prayed about it. This is what the Lord seemed to tell me.
>
>I should put on a back, back burner all issues concerning the New
>Jerusalem project and just concentrate on
>
>the private association.
>
>I should pray as the community does; teach; be on the board and be
>Vice President of the tax exempt corp.
>
>but stop obsessing about living situations of the future.
>
>It is, primarily, obsessing about the future New Jerusalem that
>presses all the wrong buttons. Better to do one step at a time, as Fr.
>Martin always does!

|

thanks for the confirmation that I shouldn't become peaceless about this. I think the farm bothers me obsessively
because of my father complex since it involves trusting Fr. Martin,
John, the farmer and the Bishop. Being in the private assoc. just
involves Fr. Martin who I do trust to a large degree.

I think it is a bad time to try new ventures in the Church since the Bishops are up against the wall with law suits.

October 19, 2010

Dear Marti,

Fr. Martin today announced to me that he had a prophetic word to concentrate on the Bride of Christ charism. He interprets this as

meaning that there should not be a requirement that members not have voted for Obama. I said that this might mean that Dale wouldn't want to be a member and he said that wouldn't matter. What matters is the charism not these side issues. He dissolved the loosely previously formed board that included myself, Dale and Fr. Tony di Marco. He will decide who can be members pending a vote for board members.

Actually when he originally appointed us members of the board without elections I thought that was a mistake. Humorously I pointed out to him that this board that he would not be voting on since he would be the liaison to the Bishop, instead meant that we all could even vote him out! This was a few months ago. He laughed at that idea. Maybe the idea now percolated into his mind because of the Intercessors of the Lamb problems.

He is coming in a few hours. I alerted Dale.

What a Catholic soap opera! I will keep you informed. Pray for us.

Of course I realize this could impact your decisions, though not necessarily in the negative... Maybe call me this evening? It would be good to talk to you.

Love and prayers, Ronda

October 21, 2010

At prayer meeting in Middletown I got a prophetic word that being poor in spirit would mean for me giving up the richness of fantasies of perfect retirement colonies. That these fantasies are a kind of spiritual gluttony!

October 23, 2010

Dear Fr. Martin,

In prayer this morning it seems to be that you are trying to say but using other language that

it pains you that you cannot simply magically create the New Jerusalem for me right now and that you are thinking if that is my real motive for being in Bride of Christ I will leave you in a manner like Theresa and Lucile.

In case that's what you are thinking, it is not true. I really love Bride of Christ in the Private Association mode and wish to do anything I can to help you with that part of it short of the Board or freezing in St. Andrew's, etc.

So it could be just a time of adjustment from the ecstatic mode of scheming about the New Jerusalem to quiet happy encounters like the TV show or the working on the novel or the curriculum.

Shalom, Ronda

November 1, 2010

I get to our early Mass wearing a heavy winter coat, ski socks with chemicals inside to warm my feet, but no scarf and it's 60 degrees with cold air coming through. So I still feel cold. So I notice none of the men look cold and they are not wearing coats. I spend the whole Mass with a stream of consciousness running like this:

If 90 men like it at 60 degrees, I can't stay here.

Dale and Marti and I can make the Bride house at My Father's House into a cozy den with wood stoves and fireplaces. Then I can buy a car and drive to the Seminary to teach Monday - Wednesday, and be warm all the rest of the time....but maybe Marti is like Dale who is a furnace and likes it to be cool in the house?

It turns out the heating system is broken and all the seminarians were

freezing because the Rector told them it doesn't look good to be wearing coats in the chapel! So they will probably fix it before the day is over.

Nice Recovery Inc. example: "you think you know but you don't know."

November 2, 2010 fuller version of Dec. 14, 2008 locution page:

Can't you see that we are taking away everything you like to lean on to make you stronger in yourself? (I thought of people leaned on who I cannot lean on in the same manner). We use others to reach you in different ways, but we want you stronger.

Out of your loneliness and anguish we want you to cry out to us as the Holy Spirit leads in sorrow, joy, with all your Jewish, Spanish, Russian, German, American heart. Take from everything you have ever read or heard or now read or hear what resonates with you.

Be not afraid. We promise to make you into a saint, but the suffering that is required is precisely not to be understood or to be able to understand us, but to trust moment by moment.

Now, let go, home free, care free. Love and do what you will. Yes, say the Jesus prayer or Jesus, Mary, Joseph, God the Father, Holy Spirit, Guardian angel and all my saints, help me.

Starting at this moment don't do anything you don't want to do out of habit or false obligation, except out of charity, We want you to greet each moment freshly.

You are Ronda of Jesus, Ronda of Maria, Ronda of Joseph, Ronda of your Guardian Angel, Ronda of your saints. You are ours and we are yours. Dance with us, sing with us, weep with us, peace be with you, joy be with you, hope be with you, trust be with you, now and forever and ever, Amen.

from Psalm 16 "You are all I have and You give me all I need. My future is in Your hands. Nothing can shake me. You are near. I feel completely secure. Your presence fills me with joy.

For you, giving up mother and father = giving up the idea that you will find a twin soul. Cleave to the Trinity and to the Holy Family and love everyone you meet, but don't depend on them. We are making you stronger. You have many good traits others don't have and you lack many they do have such as prudence, serenity, steadiness, long-suffering. That is why they provide for you a place where you can flourish and grow. Be more silent. Let us guide you, especially in your inner and outer conversations.

You are not Teresa or John but at the pit of your heart you should have God alone. Stop scheming to avoid suffering.

November 21, 2010

Diana is planning to try to give up alcohol for a month to prove she doesn't need 12 Step. In this connection I am going to Al-Anon and also just once to crawl the Stations Hispanic style. Diana was having a fit about how manipulative I am to tell her this and her husband, who I imagine doesn't understand me at all, came out with the following incredible insight:

"everybody copes with the world in different ways, and although your mother's may be a bit dramatic, from where I'm sitting it says how much she loves you. He said: she, (Ronda), gathers up every trick in her arsenal to communicate that love, and perhaps she don't realize how some of it comes across (which she says was one of the hardest things for HIM to learn because one doesn't

get much feedback), and it might SEEM manipulative, but he doesn't believe it IS. He said: the love is unmistakable.

How about that for a loving observation from the son-in-law! I am crying.

November 23, 2010

Reading Dubay about St. Teresa and John and mysticism is helping me understand that the God Alone locutions are from God and that what followed in the way of a kind of semi-dark night of the soul with so much distraction in prayer (Fall, 2008- Fall 2010) was part of the plan. The way Jesus seems to be explaining it to me, a bit humorously, is that if He showered me with all the graces of joy in prayer of a Teresa or John I would never be willing to lead the teaching life He still wants to use me in. Out of hedonism I would flee the trials that surround the active life and hide in a hermitage. So He can only give me so much delight and then plunge me into my active life so that I can witness the truths the Holy Spirit has taught me. In a way He lets me prefer Truth to Love so He can use me to convey truth.

end of November, 2010

In preparation for a course on St. Teresa and St. John of the Cross, I am reading slowly and trying to truly pray to interiorize this spirituality in spite of all repugnance to suffering. My prayer:

Dear Jesus, Mary and Joseph, you know the abyss between my ways and the ways of the saints, but you have put into my heart a great desire to have nothing but love in my heart which equals God Alone and the love that flows from Him toward those I encounter. So much is at stake for my family and the seminarians and Bride of Christ! If not for my sake, for theirs, please accomplish this in my soul.

November 26, 2010

In prayer today I decided to stop writing journals for now and just try to live in the presence of Jesus, Mary, Joseph, the Father, the Holy Spirit and the saints in a less wordy way.